

ABSTRACT

An optical channel monitor is described, the optical channel monitor includes an optical input port, a photodetector disposed in an optical path communicating at least intermittently with the optical input port, an optical filter disposed in the optical path between the optical input port and the photodetector, and an optical band splitter disposed in the optical path between the optical filter and the photodetector. The optical filter is a multibandpass filter, such as a scanning Fabry-Perot filter. The optical channel monitor also comprises a reference light system for providing a calibration standard against which an optical signal input through the input port may be compared. The channel monitor finds application in optical transmission systems including wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) optical communication systems.